

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-22, and 24-26 are pending in the application. No substantive amendments have been made in this reply. Claim 16 has been amended to improve readability. Claims 1 and 16 are independent.

Entry of Amendment Requested

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment by the Examiner since it raises no new issues; and the claims as amended do not require any further consideration or search by the Examiner. Further, Applicants submit that, at the least, the amendment should be entered since it reduces the number of substantive and/or formal issues to place the application in better form for appeal.

Claim Objections

Claim 16 has been objected to because of an informality. Applicant asserts that the objection is now moot given the amendment to claim 16 as suggested by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-12, 14, and 15.

Claim Rejections

Claims 16-22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sporre (U.S. Patent 5,966,657), in view of Ueda (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,980). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claim 16, Applicant submits that Sporre and Ueda, separately or in any proper combination, fail to teach or suggest a method of making operational measurements in a wireless communication system, comprising at least the step of a) sending a measurement request from a first base station to a plurality of base stations, said measurement request requesting said plurality of base stations to make operational measurements of a signal transmitted by said first base station; and b) making said operational measurements at said plurality of base stations as recited in independent claim 16.

The Examiner admits on page 3 of the Office Action that Sporre does not specifically disclose a measurement request requesting a plurality of base stations to make operational measurements of a signal transmitted by the first base station, and making the operational measurements at the plurality of base stations. Therefore, Sporre cannot disclose sending a measurement request from a first base station to a plurality base stations, said measurement request requesting said plurality of base stations to make operational measurements of a signal transmitted by said first base station as recited in independent claim 16.

The Examiner suggests that Ueda makes up for the deficiencies of Sporre. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Ueda is directed to a cell site testing method for a portable radio communication system. Ueda discloses two embodiments. In the first embodiment, disclosed in FIG 1 and the discussion thereof, a testing instruction is sent from a personal handy phone

system connection control equipment (PHSC) to cell site (CS) 4a. The cell range of CS 4a is expanded from a range indicated by a solid line to another range indicated by a broken line in which CS 4a can communicate with neighboring CSs 4b, 4g and 4f as well as other CSs not shown adjacent to CS 4a. Under the control of the PHSC, test calls are successively produced from CS 4a and transmitted to CSs 4b, 4g, 4f and all other adjacent CSs not shown to confirm the normality of a connection. Then, in a similar manner as described above, the PHSC repeats this operation successively for all CSs and confirms the normality of the CSs from obtained results. The second embodiment, disclosed in FIG. 2 and the discussion thereof, is similar to the first embodiment except personal handy phone system (PHS) terminals are successively used. Under the control of the PHSC, test calls are successively produced from CS 8a and transmitted to PHS terminals in CSs 8b, 8g, 8f and all other adjacent CSs not shown to confirm the normality of a connection.

Initially, Applicant asserts that while Ueda teaches cell site testing of a CS, the CS successively is tested with neighboring CSs one at a time such that the neighboring CSs are not providing measurement information regarding the same signal. Instead, throughout the disclosure of Ueda, Ueda disclose that only one (1) neighboring CS or PHS is used in testing a signal from a CS under test at one time (FIGs. 1 and 2). Because Ueda disclose that the tests are performed between a CS and neighboring CSs or PHSs successively, it is not possible in the system of Ueda for a plurality of base stations to make operational measurements of a signal transmitted by a first base station as in claim 16. Therefore, Ueda cannot disclose or suggest a method of making operational measurements in a wireless communication system, comprising at least the step of a) sending a measurement request from a first base station to a plurality of base

stations, said measurement request requesting said plurality of base stations to make operational measurements of a signal transmitted by said first base station; and b) making said operational measurements at said plurality of base stations as in independent claim 16.

Accordingly, the Examiner has not explicitly identified any passage or teaching in the references which teaches or suggests the sending feature recited in independent claim 16.

With regard to dependent claims 17-22, 24 and 25, Applicant asserts that claims 17-22, 24, and 25 are allowable at least because they each depend from independent claim 16 which is allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests that the art grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested. All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Gary Yacura (Reg. No. 35,416) at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area.

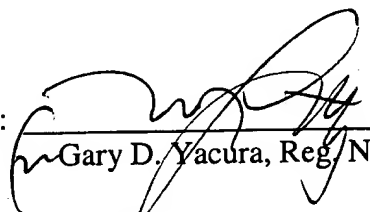
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C

By:

 45274
Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY/MJL/RFS:js